



# California State Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

June 7, 2001

Karen Getman, Chairman  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Proposed FPPC Regulation 18531.6, Agenda Item No. 7


Dear Chairman Getman:

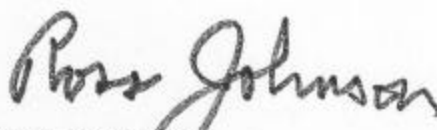
As the authors of Proposition 34, we write regarding your proposed regulation 18531.6 interpreting Government Code section 85316. We urge the Commission to adopt a regulation that permits term limited Legislators who have not established a future election committee to raise campaign funds to pay expenses associated with holding office.

Although we understand your staff has informally interpreted Proposition 34 to prohibit term limited members from fund raising without establishing a committee for future elective office; we want to assure you that was never our intent in drafting Proposition 34. We think it a strange interpretation of law that would encourage term limited members to establish committees for offices they have no intention of seeking simply to raise funds to pay the day to day expenses of holding office. Instead, we encourage you to adopt a rule that will permit these members to raise money into their current campaign committees.

As you no doubt are aware, Legislators incur many expenses. Some of these expenses are political in nature although not related to the member's own campaign. More often the expenses are related to the Legislator's official duties. Public funds cannot be used to pay for political expenses and budget constraints limit public funds to pay very legitimate officeholder expenses. The Political Reform Act permits elected officials to use campaign funds to pay expenses related to political, legislative or governmental purposes. However, members need to be able to raise campaign funds in order to pay these expenses. We don't believe Proposition 34 prohibits term-limited members from doing so. We trust you agree.

Peace and friendship,

  
JOHN L. BURTON  
President pro Tempore  
of the Senate

  
ROSS JOHNSON  
State Senator, District 35

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